GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1897
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2003
PURCHASE OF DIGITAL PTS UNIT
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Digital PTS unit alongwithProcessor for Dark room costing Rs.16 lakhs was purchased in 1988 which was installed in Faridabad Press in August, 1990;

(b) if so, whether the said machine had been purchased from a tainted Co. in the records of CBI;

(c) if so, the name of the company and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether capacity as per Manufacturer Booklet is 3.37 Crores lines per year and capacity of Laser Printer is 0.19 crores pages per year;

(e) if so, whether CAG in its observation has directed to fix the responsibility of the officers who had purchased the machine which was of old and obsolete technology;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Press authorities failed to furnish the capacity utilisation in percentage before the CAG Investigating team; and

(h) if so, the action proposed to be taken against the official responsible for the said purchase?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKR)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c): The machine purchased in 1988 through DGS&D was manufactured by M/s Itek Graphix Corp.Weltham Massachusets - a USA based company. M/s J. Mahabir & Co. was the Indian Agent of the manufacturer. No information about the firm being a tainted company in CBI records was available with the Directorate of Printing.

(d): Yes, Sir.

(e)&(f): A Special Investigation Team of Audit had observed that the matter of purchase of machine of old and obsolete technology need b e investigated and responsibility fixed therefor. In April, 2001, audit was apprised by Directorate of Printing that these machines have become old and obsolete. The Audit had only repeated this observation of Directorate of Printing in its report. These machines are electronic/computerized equipment. The depreciation of such equipment is much faster and technology becomes old and obsolete in short period. The Audit has been apprised about this on 78.2001 and no further comments have so far been received from the Audit.

(g)&(h): In Government of India Presses assessed capacityis being fixed and capacity utilization being checked only in respect of main printing machines and not for auxiliary machines. Since the machines referred to are auxiliary machines, information about capacity utilization could not be provided to the Audit Team. Production data was however forwarded to the Audit on 7.8.2001. No further comments have so far been received from the Audit.